

1 4. (Amended) A method for discarding a data packet comprising the steps
2 of:
3 classifying the data packet according to a type of service (TOS) [TOS] indicator;
4 modifying the data packet with an internal service class (ISC) [ISC] indicator
5 according to the TOS indicator;
6 modifying the data packet with a watermark (WM) indicator according to the
7 availability of a system resource;
8 comparing the ISC, WM and a drop preference (DP) indicator of the data packet
9 to a committed information rate (CIR) [CIR]; and
10 discarding the packet if the DP exceeds the CIR.

1 7. (Amended) An apparatus for discarding a data packet comprising:
2 a classifier to classify the data packet according to a type of service (TOS)[TOS]
3 indicator;
4 a modifier logically coupled to the classifier to modify the data packet with an
5 internal service class (ISC) [ISC] indicator according to the TOS indicator;
6 a comparator logically coupled to the modifier to compare the ISC to a committed
7 information rate (CIR) [CIR]; and
8 a discarder logically coupled to the comparator to discard the packet if the ISC
9 exceeds the CIR.

1 8. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the comparator
2 comprises:
3 a congestion clip table (CCT) having an entry indexed by the ISC; and
4 a comparator logically coupled to the modifier to compare the entry to the [a] CIR.

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1 10. (Amended) An apparatus for discarding a data packet comprising:
2 a classifier to classify the data packet according to a type of service (TOS) [TOS]
3 indicator;
4 a first modifier logically coupled to the classifier to modify the data packet with
5 an internal service class (ISC) [ISC] indicator according to the TOS indicator;
6 a second modifier logically coupled to the classifier to modify the data packet
7 with a watermark (WM) indicator according to the availability of a system resource;
8 a comparator logically coupled to the modifier to compare the ISC, WM and a
9 drop preference (DP) indicator of the data packet to a committed information rate (CIR)
10 [CIR]; and
11 a discarder logically coupled to the comparator to discard the packet if the DP
12 exceeds the CIR.

1 11. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the comparator
2 comprises:
3 a concatenator to concatenate the ISC, WM and the DP into a key value;
4 a congestion clip table (CCT) having an entry indexed by the key value; and
5 a comparator logically coupled to the modifier to compare the entry to the [a] CIR.

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1 13. (Amended) An article of manufacture for use in a computer system to
2 discard a data packet, the article of manufacture comprising a computer usable medium
3 having computer readable program code means embodied in the medium, the program
4 code means including:
5 computer readable program code means embodied in the computer usable medium
6 for causing a computer to classify the data packet according to a type of service (TOS)
7 [TOS] indicator;

8 computer readable program code means embodied in the computer usable medium
9 for causing a computer to modify the data packet with an internal service class (ISC)
10 [ISC] indicator according to the TOS indicator;

11 computer readable program code means embodied in the computer usable medium
12 for causing a computer to compare the ISC to a committed information rate (CIR)[CIR];
13 and

14 computer readable program code means embodied in the computer usable medium
15 for causing a computer to discard the packet if the ISC exceeds the CIR.

1 16. (Amended) An article of manufacture for use in a computer system to
2 discard a data packet, the article of manufacture comprising a computer usable medium
3 having computer readable program code means embodied in the medium, the program code
4 means including:

5 computer readable program code [means] embodied in the computer usable medium
6 for causing a computer to classify the data packet according to a type of service (TOS) [TOS]
7 indicator;

8 computer readable program code means embodied in the computer usable medium for
9 causing a computer to modify the data packet with an internal service class (ISC) [ISC]
10 indicator according to the TOS indicator;

11 computer readable program code means embodied in the computer usable medium for
12 causing a computer to modify the data packet with a watermark (WM) indicator according to
13 the availability of a system resource;

14 computer readable program code means embodied in the computer usable medium for
15 causing a computer to compare the ISC, WM and a drop preference (DP) indicator of the data
16 packet to a committed information rate (CIR)[CIR]; and

17 computer readable program code means embodied in the computer usable medium for
18 causing a computer to discard the packet if the DP exceeds the CIR.